

**JOINT STAFF REPORT
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 18
Columbia River Compact
Joint State Hearing
May 4, 2004**

Purpose: To review salmon stock status and the ongoing Select Area commercial fisheries and the recreational fishery above Bonneville Dam.

2004 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Non-Indian Upriver Impact Allocation

- Non-Indian fisheries will be managed to limit impacts to listed upriver spring chinook to $\leq 2\%$ in 2004. Non-Indian impacts are allocated 60% for sport fisheries (1.2%) and 40% for commercial fisheries (0.8%).
- Non-Indian commercial fisheries are being managed for an overall 0.8% upriver impact with 0.2% reserved for Select Areas and as a management buffer. The mainstem upriver impact through the March 29-30 fishing period is estimated to be 0.932%, which is 155% of the 0.6% impact reserved for this fishery.
- The Columbia River sport fishery allocation includes fisheries above McNary Dam (Snake River sport/Wanapum tribal) and the sport fishery from Bonneville to McNary Dam which are expected to impact 0.2% and 0.1% of the listed upriver spring chinook, respectively.
- The Joint Staff also recommends a management buffer of 0.1% for sport fisheries with the remaining 0.8% reserved for the mainstem sport fishery below Bonneville Dam.

STOCK STATUS

- The preseason spring chinook run size forecasts include returns of 360,700 upriver stock (94% 4-year old) and 109,400 Willamette stock to the Columbia River mouth.
- Counts of spring chinook at Bonneville Dam through May 3 are 122,554 adults and 1,459 jacks.
- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on May 3 to review stock status and consider an in-season run size update. TAC downgraded the run to 200,000 spring chinook at the river mouth.

FISHERY UPDATES

Non-Indian Sport Fisheries

<i>2004 Spring Chinook Sport Fishing Plan</i>	
✓	Fishery checkpoints will occur one or two days per week during April 1-May 15.
✓	Fishery checkpoints will be used to monitor progress towards adopted upriver spring chinook impact guideline and modify ongoing fishery.
✓	Modifications to ongoing fishery will occur in the following order: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reduce fishery between the I-5 Bridge and Bonneville Dam to less than seven days per week. 2) Eliminate fishery between the I-5 Bridge and Bonneville Dam completely. 3) Reduce fishery below the I-5 Bridge to less than seven days per week. 4) Eliminate fishery below the I-5 Bridge completely.
✓	Manage the fishery above Bonneville Dam to maintain opportunity fairness with fishery below the I-5 Bridge.

- Fishing was generally slow during February and March with catch rates of one fish per 12 boat anglers. Catch rates increased after April 1. Overall catch rates have been excellent with a total April catch rate of 0.31 fish per boat angler. Catch rates from I-5 Bridge to Bonneville Dam were 0.43 during April 1-21.
- Impacts to upriver spring chinook in the mainstem sport fishery below Bonneville Dam totaled 1.234% through April 30, 2004. This represents 101% of the total sport fishery impact (1.2%), and 155% of the portion of the impact (0.8%) that was reserved for the mainstem sport fishery below Bonneville Dam.

<i>Catch and Effort During the 2004 Mainstem Spring Chinook Sport Fishery Below Bonneville Dam</i>					
Time Period	Angler Trips	Total Catch	Kept Catch	Upriver Stock	
				%	Impact
February	9,467	79	48	43	0.002%
March	44,576	3,341	2,614	54	0.091%
April 1-30 (total)	109,966	30,030	22,962	78	1.141%
April 1-21 above The I-5 Bridge ¹	29,021	12,498	9,694	100	0.651%
Total	164,009	33,450	25,624	76	1.234%

¹ Also included in the April total.

- The area from I-5 Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam, was closed effective April 22. The area from Buoy 10 to the I-5 Bridge was closed effective May 1.
- Through May 2, a total of 600 chinook have been kept and 200 released in the area from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam. Total impacts are 0.40% (40% of the 0.1% expected impact rate).

Select Area Fisheries

- The total SAFE fisheries upriver impact is 0.09% through May 4, which is 90% of the 0.1% SAFE impact allocation.
- Projected impacts for Select Area fisheries during May 5 through June 18 are 0.004% for a combined impact of 0.094%.

Combined Fisheries Impacts

- A summary of all non-Indian mainstem fisheries below Bonneville Dam is provided in the table below.

<i>Spring Chinook Catch and Impacts Summary for 2004</i>				
Fishery	Total Handle	Kept Catch		Upriver Impact
		Total	Upriver	
Commercial Fishery	18,576	13,546	5,475	0.932%
Select Area Commercial through May 4	7,300	7,300	181	0.091%
<i>Total Commercial</i>	25,876	20,846	5,656	1.022%
Below Bonneville Sport through April 30	33,450	25,624	18,509	1.234%
Total	59,326	46,470	24,165	2.256%

FISHERY RECOMENDATIONS

Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam Spring Chinook Sport Fishery

<i>Recommendation</i>
The Joint staff recommends the following closure: Close the recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam to chinook, steelhead, and shad effective May 6.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

<i>Recommendation</i>
The Joint staff recommends closing Youngs Bay, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and Deep River Select Area commercial fisheries effective May 5 until further notice. Staff will analyze fishery impacts and determine an appropriate date to re-open.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff recommends the next weekly update occur at the request of the Columbia River treaty tribes to review stock status and the on-going treaty Indian fisheries above Bonneville Dam.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
May 4, 2004